



EMBARGOED UNTIL – 5:00 PM – OCTOBER 6, 2010

\$2 Million in Funding Awarded for Safe Routes to School Projects

In celebration of International Walk to School Day, the Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program together with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation announced the 2010 Safe Routes to School grant award recipients at a public ceremony held today at 4:00 p.m. in the Atrium Gallery of the Department of Administration. The Safe Routes to School program will grant over \$2 million to encourage and enable more of Rhode Island's children to safely walk and bike to 16 elementary and middle schools in 10 municipalities. 100% of the funding for this program is provided by the Federal Highway Administration.

Selected from 24 proposals requesting over \$4.5 million, the projects slated for implementation will include infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects. The infrastructure projects will improve the ability of students to safely walk and bicycle to school through sidewalk and crosswalk repair and construction. The non-infrastructure programs include safety curriculum, activities organized to encourage walking and biking, and increased law enforcement. A summary of all grant awards with contact information is provided below.

Safe Routes to School programs are sustained efforts by parents, schools, community leaders and local, state, and federal governments to improve the health and well-being of children by enabling and encouraging them to walk and bicycle to school. Safe Routes to School programs examine conditions around schools and conduct projects and activities that work to improve safety and accessibility, and reduce traffic and air pollution in the vicinity of schools. As a result, these programs help make bicycling and walking to school safer and more appealing transportation choices thus encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age.

In announcing the awards today, Kevin Flynn, Associate Director of the Division of Planning commented, "We are particularly pleased to be able to make resources available to support these very worthwhile projects that will enable Rhode Island elementary and middle school students to walk and bicycle safely to school. Improving pedestrian access and the environment around local schools is an important foundation for establishing a healthy lifestyle."

Rhode Island Department of Transportation Director Michael Lewis added, "Safer routes to school should not just be a slogan but a way of life. Having healthier students and a better pathway to get them to school is what these grants are all about."

Proposals funded by the 2010 Safe Routes to School Program are:

Barrington Middle School & Primrose Hill Elementary School/ Town of Barrington:
\$268,000 for sidewalk construction, crosswalks, signage, bike racks, increased law enforcement

and various educational and encouragement activities. Contact: Philip Hervey, Town Planner, 247-1900 Ext. 343.

Western Hills Middle School/ City of Cranston: \$139,685 for sidewalk construction, crosswalks, signage, and various educational and encouragement activities. Contact: Anthony Corrente, Principal, 270-8033.

Kent Heights Elementary School & Myron J. Francis Elementary School/ City of East Providence: \$141,000 to continue infrastructure improvements from Round One for sidewalks, signage and various educational and encouragement activities. Contact: Wayne Barnes, City Planner, 435-7537.

Melrose & Lawn Avenue Schools/ Town of Jamestown: \$203,750 for new sidewalks and various educational and encouragement activities. Contact: Lisa Bryer, Town Planner, 423-7210.

Narragansett Pier Middle School/ Town of Narragansett: \$304,424 for sidewalks, bike racks, signage, and various educational and encouragement activities. Contact: Michael DeLuca, Community Development Director, 782-0632.

Frank E. Thompson Middle School/ City of Newport: \$238,756 for sidewalks, bike racks, signage and various educational and encouragement activities. Contact: June House, Senior Development Planner, 845-5474.

Vincent J. Gallagher Middle School & Anna M. McCabe Elementary School/ Town of Smithfield: \$108,560 for sidewalks, signage, walkway, bike racks, increased law enforcement, and various educational and encouragement activities. Contact: Robert O'Brien, Superintendent 231-6606.

Hugh Cole Elementary & Kickemuit Middle Schools/ Town of Warren: \$349,000 for bike path bridge construction, crosswalk, bike racks, signage, and various educational and encouragement activities. Contact: Caroline Wells, Director of Planning and Community Development, 245-2469.

State Street Elementary School/ Town of Westerly: \$209,292 for sidewalks, signage, crosswalks and various educational and encouragement activities. Contact: Marilyn Shellman, Town Planner, 348-2604.

Citizens Elementary & Pothier Elementary Schools/ City of Woonsocket/ Connecting for Children and Families: \$194,225 for sidewalks, signage, bike racks, and various educational and encouragement activities. Contact: Jane Talbot, Deputy Director of Community Planning, 767-1418.

For more information please contact Karen Scott, Supervising Transportation Planner, Statewide Planning Program at kscott@doa.ri.gov or 401- 222-4411. Please also refer to the Rhode Island Safe Routes to School website, www.planning.ri.gov/transportation/srts/srts.htm or the National Center for Safe Routes to School website, www.saferoutesinfo.org.

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